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Disclosure No. 200207758

Invention Disclosure - DBI Document No. 5VP8

PD No.
200207758Date Received
8/6/2002Collection
IPG

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**General Information****Title** Improved Print-head Integrated Fuse

Abstract An improved fuse design, a key element of an on-print-head programmable, read-only memory (PROM) has been incorporated onto a print-head design. Unlike previous integrated fuse designs, the new fuse design allows for fuse burning even when the fuse is covered with a barrier layer. This allows fuses to be burned after barrier application without requiring a hole in the barrier to be defined over the fuse. This in turn is expected to improve print-head reliability, as the barrier layer acts as an additional passivation to protect the fuse from ink.

Projects 007, 4.0, Gold Finger, GoldenEye, GoldFinger and Goldfinger

Products 007, Gold Finger, Golden Eye, GoldenEye, Goldeneye, Goldfinger and GoldFinger

**Description of Invention**

Problems Solved Previous fuses incorporated onto ink-jet print-heads as part of the thin-film stack have required a hole in the barrier layer over fuses that will be blown after the barrier layer has been applied.

Without the hole the fuses have proven very difficult to blow, thus resulting in poor yield. The hole in the barrier layer, however, increases the access of ink to the blown fuse. As the fuse burning process damages the thinfilm stack, any ink in this area can lead to an ink-short.

The new fuse design described in this disclosure does away with the requirement that holes be placed in the barrier layer over fuses that will be blown after the barrier layer has been applied. Thus, all fuses can be covered with the barrier layer, affording an extra level of protection against ink shorts.

The new fuse design can incorporate these previous solutions (barrier hole

Exhibit 1

and orifice placement) in addition to the covering the fuse with barrier, thus minimizing the probability of an ink short thru the blown fuse.

Description The new fuse design works by moving the fuse from a metal layer into a poly Si layer which is buried further down in the thinfilm stack. This change increases the thickness of the dielectric layers over the fuse, which is believed to allow for greater thermal diffusion of the heat generated from the fuse burn process. This in turn minimizes thermal interference from the barrier layer and has been demonstrated to allow for fuse burning with the barrier layer over the fuse.

Advantages The greatest advantage of the new design is that all fuses can now be covered with the thick barrier layer, offering greater protection of the blown fuse from ink.

Invention History

Published No

Announced Yes - 5/1/2004 - The fuses are incorporated into Goldfinger, a print-head which will be released to the market in 2004.

Disclosed No

Next Three Months No

Described Yes - Presentations and technical reports

Built Yes - 1/15/2001

Government Contract No

Related Disclosure No

Innovation Workshop No

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Classification

Legal Techword circuitry - components, materials, configuration, fabrication, and operation

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Keywords fuse**Recommended Merlin
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Administrative Record

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PD Number 200207758**Date Received by Legal** August 6, 2002

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